

the pharmacist of the unreasonable and unjust burden which has been placed upon him through the ignorance of the physician, and it places upon him the responsibility which is rightly his. Just stop in your busy life, for a moment, and think of this. It is not a fanciful sketch, but an actual occurrence, and only one of hundreds which might be cited. Will you order some preparation of this sort under a trade name that gives you no assurance of what the patient will receive, or will you hark back to the Pharmacopeia of the United States and order *Liquor Cresolis Compositus*, knowing exactly what you are doing, and what your patient will receive—or where to place the blame if he does not receive exactly what you have ordered?

Sad as are the immediate consequences, the present epidemic of yellow fever in New Orleans will be of inestimable benefit to the world. Many physicians and sanitarians throughout the South have refused to accept the theory, apparently well demonstrated, that the *Stegomyia* is the intermediate host and the only means of conveyance of the disease. It is true that the actual cause of the disease has not been demonstrated under the microscope, but certainly no chain of circumstantial evidence and corroborative testimony was ever stronger. In New Orleans, due to carelessness, ignorance or lack of common intelligence, several foci had been established before the presence of yellow fever was generally known and any efforts had been made to grapple with the epidemic. As a result, something like a thousand cases have occurred, and some two hundred deaths have resulted. Ludicrously rigid quarantine has been established by neighboring states, and the panic at one time threatened to become serious. The reports that reach us indicate a commendable promptness on the part of the Marine Hospital Service in taking hold of the situation, and an equally satisfactory yielding of the local health authorities to the command of the service. It is high time that all epidemics of infectious diseases should be promptly turned over to the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, and full control of all local affairs placed in the hands of that excellent department of the federal government. An epidemic of yellow fever is not a local concern; it is a matter of national import, and as such should properly be under the full control of the national government. The truth or falsity of the mosquito theory of the dissemination of yellow fever will be made manifest, in all probability, to the most dense, by the time that the present epidemic in New Orleans is stamped out. In Cuba, Wood and the yellow fever commission showed what could be done against the disease when the sanitary efforts of the health officers were based upon the mosquito theory, and we may confidently expect to see very much the same general result in New Orleans, now that the Marine Hospital Service is in full charge.

The question of a new City and County Hospital for San Francisco is in an exceedingly unfortunate condition, and should receive the attention of all physicians in that community, and also of all the various organizations of business men and labor unions. It will be recalled that a resolution of the Board of Supervisors authorized a general vote on the issuance of bonds to cover the cost of a new hospital. The election was held and the bond issue authorized. The unfortunate part of the transaction is that, through some inadvertence, the original resolution of the Supervisors contained a statement that the new hospital should be erected on the Almshouse tract. This suggested location is an exceedingly bad one, for it is remote, rather inaccessible, and very cold and windy. The unfortunates who must be placed in the city's hospital are generally in bad condition, and to require that they be transported a considerable and an unnecessary distance is certainly ill advised, to say the least. It would also be very detrimental to convalescing patients to expose them to the almost continuous winds and heavy fogs to which the Almshouse tract is almost constantly exposed. This is a question that appeals not at all to the rich, but only to the proletariat, and hence should appeal to the great majority of voters. The physicians, not alone of San Francisco, but of the whole state, should be interested in seeing that the questions at issue be properly understood, and that so serious an error be avoided, even if it shall require that the bond issue be once more referred to the voters of the community.

On the first day of this month of September, the Eighth Decennial Revision of the United States Pharmacopeia becomes the official standard of the United States and of something like one-half of the states in the Union. The Revision Committee, consisting of some of the ablest physicians, pharmacists and chemists in this country, has spent five years working upon the present volume, and the result of their efforts is in the highest degree commendable. It is well within moderation to say that every conscientious physician should have a copy of this book upon his desk; it should be to him the Bible and the prayer book of his professional life; if, in prescribing for the sick he restricts himself to those articles which are contained in the Pharmacopeia, he will protect himself, his patient and his pharmacist, and it is safe to say that no patient of his will have suffered for lack of the proper remedy. With the exception of a very few articles—mostly chemicals so recently patented that they could not, under the rules of the Convention of 1900, be included in the present work—the conscientious physician will not have to go outside of the Pharmacopeia to find all the remedies which he may need. The standards of purity, quality and strength of pharmacopeial preparations are fixed

#### UNFORTUNATE COMPLICATION.

#### YELLOW FEVER.

#### DO NOT FORGET.